

2

DEERFIELD COUNTY MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY.



F. MacKenzie del

J. H. LaFond sc

Tenth Report

OF

THE DERBYSHIRE

County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR BLANE, BART., CHAIRMAN.

THE HON. A. H. VERNON.

SIR HENRY SACHEVEREL WILMOT, BART.

THOMAS WILLIAM EVANS, Esq., M.P.

WILLIAM MUNDY, Esq., M.P.

THOMAS PEACH, Esq., M.D.

JOHN RADFORD, Esq.

CHARLES CLARKE, Esq.

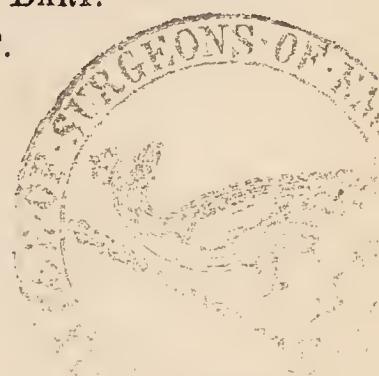
FRANCIS WRIGHT, Esq.

ASHTON MOSLEY, Esq.

DR. HEYGATE.

JOHN BROADHURST, JUN., Esq.

CHARLES EDMUND NEWTON, Esq.



TREASURER GEORGE CROMPTON, Esq.

SUPERINTENDENT PHYSICIAN... DR. HITCHMAN.

CHAPLAIN..... THE REV GEORGE FRITCHE.

CLERK AND STEWARD..... MR. JOHN LANGLEY.

JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

DERBY:

W. AND W. PIKE, PRINTERS, CORN MARKET.

[1862]

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3031849x>

*To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
assembled at their General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace at Derby, on the 8th day of April, 1862.*

We have so uniformly had reason to extol the management of the Derby County Asylum that we gladly, on this occasion, substitute the gratifying testimony of two of the Commissioners in Lunacy who visited the Asylum on the 27th of January last:—From their Report then made, in which we entirely concur, we have pleasure in extracting the following remarks, viz:—

“ We have found the Patients, in both divisions of this Asylum, at our visit to-day, extraordinarily quiet and free from excitement, and the whole Institution in excellent order.

“ Since the visit of the 30th January, 1861, 121 Patients have been admitted (67 males and 54 females); 62 have been discharged (36 males and 26 females); and 36 (18 of each sex) have died. Of those discharged, 46 had recovered; and of the remaining 16, the majority were sufficiently relieved to be entrusted with safety to their friends. The deaths were all from ordinary causes—chiefly general paralysis, phthisis, and old age.

“ The singular quiet and freedom from excitement which we found prevailing throughout the parade and galleries, were most satisfactory. It was manifestly to be attributed in a very great measure, to the state of the rooms themselves; to the lightness and cheerfulness pervading altogether, more or less; to the air of domestic comfort everywhere visible; to the

pleasing variety of colour on the walls ; and to the plentiful provision of objects calculated to attract, amuse, and interest the patients.

" We found all the bed-rooms in perfect order, and the ventilation remarkably good.

" The admirable arrangements described in the last entry, by which Dr. Hitchman supplies weekly entertainments, at which both divisions of the Patients are associated and amused (comprising readings, lectures, music, magic lantern, and occasionally theatrical entertainments) are continued with the best effect

" It is impossible to speak too highly of the ability, care, and kindness displayed in the administration and management of this Asylum. To the various officers in their respective departments, the greatest credit is due ; and eminently to the unceasing exertions of Dr. Hitchman and Mrs. Hitchman."

H. SEYMOUR BLANE,

Chairman.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

ENTLEMEN,

The following is a summary of the chief events which have occurred at the Asylum during the year 1831. On the first of January, there were in the Asylum two hundred and eighty-seven Patients ; of these five Men and two Women were paid for by their Friends, and the remainder, namely, one hundred and forty Men, and one hundred and forty Women, were chargeable to various Unions and Parishes.

Sixty-nine Male and fifty-four Female Patients were received during the year, and of these by far the greater portion were, at the time of their admission, suffering from chronic and incurable disease. The Monthly Summaries detailed to the Committee at their several meetings have shown how large a number were also sinking from general bodily disease. Among the more remarkable of these was B., who died in seven days after admission. J. N., admitted on the 22nd of February, in a most exhausted condition. This poor man was largely infested with lice ; his hands had been cut by glass ; his body was disfigured by old scars and wounds, and he sunk in two days after his reception in the Hospital. J. T., admitted on the 20th of June, and died in two days ; the entry in my Diary at the time of his admission being, this "is evidently a case which will sink in a few days, it being rather a general failure of the powers of life, and with these of intellectual manifestations, than of acute disease." H. F., admitted on September 24th. The following was written respecting her at the time : "She is suffering from serious

Condition
of
Patients
on
Admission.

effusion upon the brain ; is wholly paralysed in her lower extremities, is almost comatose, and altogether in a perilous condition, and will probably not survive more than a week or two." She died on the sixth day after her arrival. Some chronic and paralytic cases have been received from Workhouses, by order of the Lunacy and Poor Law Commissioners. Cases of this description could be multiplied ; they are referred to now, as explanatory of the fact, that whereas in 1856 the mortality of the Patients in this Asylum did not reach 5 per cent. upon the number under treatment, it has during the past year reached 9 per cent. ;—a mortality, however, not unusual when contrasted with other Asylums, and even very low, when compared with the mortality prevalent among Lunatics some twenty years ago, when the mean mortality of nine years upon the average number of Patients resident in one of the County Asylums reached 19.24 percent. It is sad to reflect, however, that many of our fellow creatures are permitted to sink into hopeless disease before being brought to a Hospital which the benevolence of the County has expressly designed and built for the amelioration and cure of their special maladies.

Three Insane Women have been brought to the Asylum in a pregnant condition ; one of these was idiotic and paralysed. On the 29th of May she was safely delivered of her offspring, which was sent to the Belper Workhouse, the poor Patient not having sufficient intelligence to perform the most simple maternal duties. She herself died in the following September, from softening of the brain. Of the other two pregnant Females, one has given birth to a fine male child, and the second has not reached her full period.

Number
of
Patients.

Forty-two Patients, namely thirty Males and twelve Females, have been discharged cured ; and twelve others have been discharged much relieved. There are now in the Asylum—December 31st, 1861—one hundred and sixty-one Men, and one hundred and fifty-

seven Women ; or a total of 318 Patients. There has been a total of thirty-seven deaths from the four hundred and ten Patients who have been under treatment during the past year. On one very remarkable case a Coroner's Inquest was held. A poor Woman who had suffered severely from the consequences of early dissipation, and who for two years had not left her bed except for necessary purposes, on getting out of bed unaided and alone, on the night of the 19th of April, slipped and fell. She got into bed again, however, and did not state to any one that she had fallen. The Nurse lifted her in and out of bed on the following days ; she was seen daily by and conversed with a Medical Man, but it was not until three days after, when in conversation with me, that she said "She did not know what had come to her—her legs had become so very helpless ;" when on examining her limbs, I found that *both thighs* had been broken. She was, until I told her, ignorant of the fact that her limbs were broken ; and then, for the first time, she related that she had fallen when endeavouring to get out of her bed, three nights previously. Prior to this accident, she had had exfoliation of bone from her forehead and other parts, the result of syphilitic disease, and her limbs were well-nigh powerless ; so that her great helplessness on the morning of the 20th did not attract that amount of attention which it would otherwise have done. The bones did not unite, and eight weeks from the fall she expired, from the combined result of the accident and long-standing constitutional disease. A verdict was returned in accordance with the facts, and the Jury expressly recorded that in their opinion no blame whatever should be attached to the Officers and Servants of the Institution. This case is recited here, as an illustration of how deeply severe bodily ailments are concealed by mental disorders.

The Asylum was visited officially by the Commissioners in Lunacy, appointed for that purpose, on the 30th of January, and after detailing the usual statistics of the numbers admitted, of the

numbers discharged, and of the numbers died, they record " That the sanitary condition of the Asylum was satisfactory;" and add " We are glad to hear that the Patients of both sexes are assembled every Thursday evening in the Recreation Hall, where various means of amusements are provided, including frequent readings by Dr. Hitchman of interesting tales, &c., music, and dancing, with occasional Dramatic Entertainments, and Magic Lantern.

In the event of any considerable increase in the number of Patients and consequent extension of the accommodation, it will be necessary to provide a new Chapel, and the present Chapel would then with advantage be converted, with the existing Recreation Hall, into a hall for dining and amusement. We suggest for the consideration of the Committee the introduction into the principal Airing Ground of Summer Houses, or Sun Shades, constructed and placed so as not to intercept more than necessary the prospect from the lower wards.

" The State of the Asylum and its Inmates continues to reflect great credit upon Dr. and Mrs. Hitchman, who appear to be unwearied in their exertions, and upon the other Officers of the Institution.

" R. W. S. LUTWEDGE, } Commissioners in
" JAMES WILKS, } Lunacy."

The Asylum has also been visited during the past year by persons of distinction from the Governments of Holland and of the United States; by one of the Lunacy Commissioners of Ireland, and many Magistrates from that country, interested in the construction and management of asylums. Most of these gentlemen had been referred to this Asylum by the English Commissioners in Lunacy, and some had been prompted to inspect it from the favourable allusions made to it by the Member for Waterford (Mr.

Blake) in a discussion upon the Irish District Lunatic Asylums in the House of Commons.

The sanitary condition of the Asylum throughout the year has been excellent. Not a case of dysentery, erysipelas, or fever, has occurred. The increased mortality has been caused by the abject condition, and the extensive organic brain diseases under which the Patients were suffering at the period of their admission. The warmth, and efficient ventilation, which can be maintained cotemporaneously in the coldest day of winter, and sustained by night as well as by day, have been most salutary, and certainly preventive of very serious diseases.

The following classification of the causes of death will illustrate that the deaths have arisen chiefly from Diseases of the Brain and Nervous System :—

	Causes of Death.
General Paralysis	11
Softening of the Brain	4
Apoplexy	3
Epilepsy, with Paralysis	3
Exhaustion after Mania.....	3
——— with Old Age	1
Pulmonary Consumption	2
Dropsy	1
Disease of the Heart.....	1
Inflammation of the Lungs, with Fever	1*
General Debility	2
,, ,, with Palsy	1
,, ,, with fracture of thigh (Coroner's Inquest)	1
Old Age	3

* Brought to the Asylum suffering from the above in the last stage of the malady.

The general principles of treatment detailed in former Reports have been carried out in a progressive degree. Every effort has been made to amuse, instruct, and employ the Patients. In addition to the amusements provided weekly, Recreation has been found for them on the Queen's birth-day—on the Anniversary of the Opening of the Asylum—and on special days, which the traditional customs of the County have sanctioned,—such as foot-ball on Shrove Tuesday.

On the Anniversary of the Opening of the Asylum, the Patients played a cricket match with the Findern Cricket Club, who were invited to the Asylum for the purpose. The Hon. and Rev. F. Curzon, the Vicar of Mickleover, kindly acted as Umpire between the contending parties. A very pleasant afternoon was spent, affording much amusement even to such of the *Amusements.* Patients as were not engaged in the match. The Asylum club was, on this occasion, victorious. The club was permitted to accept a return match at the village of Findern, and was accompanied thither by a large additional group of Patients, as lookers-on. This little episode keeps up an interest in the manly game of cricket, and is beneficial in many ways. It brings the sane and insane into social contact, and tends to remove the dark shadow of suspicion which the tradition of bye-gone cruelties still throws upon Asylum-life. The following remarks were made by the *Derby Reporter* upon this return match, at the time of its occurrence:—"Some weeks since a match was played on the cricket ground belonging to the County Asylum, between an eleven composed of Officers and Patients of the Institution, and one chosen from the Findern Cricket Club. On Saturday last, the Asylum eleven paid a visit to Findern, and a return match took place. The committee of the Findern Club bestirred themselves to give their opponents, as far as possible, as hearty a welcome as had been accorded to themselves on their visit to the Asylum. A field was kindly lent for the occasion, and a tent,

capable of accommodating the players and their friends, was erected.

. On the conclusion of the game (which was in favour of Findern) the players and their friends, to the number of forty, sat down to an excellent dinner, which was done full justice to. The cloth being drawn, song and toast became the order of the evening, and at an early hour all separated, thoroughly delighted with their day's enjoyment. During the afternoon an additional party of Patients from the Asylum walked over to Findern in order to see the game, and after walking about with, and mixing freely among the spectators, every man went back, not doggedly, or unwillingly, but freely, and as to a home where kind friends waited to greet him. Great praise and many thanks are due to the ladies of Findern, who, by their presence and assistance greatly enhanced the pleasures of that agreeable day."

The Entertainment on Christmas-Eve passed off as usual, with much animation and pleasure. A Dramatic performance was super-added to the dances and music usually provided, and was productive of great delight to the Patients. The Institution is indebted to the skill and liberality of Mr. Cantrill, painter, of Derby, who generously presented the drop scene, and other paintings required in the performance of the piece,—which was Mark Lemon's laughable farce of "Domestic Economy." These amusements are very beneficial—but would be valueless, were they otherwise than supplementary to useful daily occupation. This is the chief and best antidote to morbid imaginings, and to many physical disorders. Useful employment in the open air has been encouraged to the utmost extent. The numbers employed have varied daily—and, to a large extent, dependant chiefly upon the condition of the weather, and the requirements of the season. Many of the Patients are so imbecile in mind, and so feeble in body also, ^{Employment.} that they are incapable of any sustained exertion; but on warm, sunny days, great numbers of the most feeble are taken out to weed

the paths, to pick up stones from the grass-fields, to assist in rolling the lawns, and such like simple offices. To the stronger, the Farm and Garden furnish employments of the most salutary kind, such as digging, planting, weeding, gathering in the vegetable products, or preparing them for the market, or the kitchen. In the Summer and Autumn, mowing, haymaking, reaping, and garnering occupy large numbers. The daily attendance upon Stock, Poultry, and Pigs interests others: the more quiet and industrious are allowed to accompany trustworthy persons to the Derby market, when stock or vegetables have to be disposed of, and to attend Horticultural and Agricultural Shows, and thus a lively and personal interest is kept up in the Garden and Farm. The success of the animals exhibited from the Asylum at the Derbyshire Agricultural Society diffused gladness among many Patients, and was a subject of conversation for a long period. Every possible effort is made to foster a friendly feeling, and to establish a community of interest among all the Inmates of the Asylum, as being conducive to the happiness, and therefore to the restoration of each Patient.

Chapel Service. Morning and Evening Prayers have been conducted as heretofore; the Chapel Services have been regularly attended on the Sundays by as many Patients as the room will accommodate, and not a single disturbance has occurred throughout the year. Indeed, the scene is always an impressive one. Some of the restless Patients even become calm, and the melancholy and despondent listen with deep interest to the *hopeful* Scriptural expressions with which the Church of England opens her beautiful service, and they conduct themselves throughout so well, that, remembering how Godless many of them have been prior to their reception into the Asylum, it would seem that their very affliction raised their devotion, or that they had, amid all the delusions of disease, some inner instinctive sense which revealed to them that they were in the presence of the Great Healer,—that they were nigh unto Him to whom a frantic one of old had fled, and was found “sitting, clothed, and in his right mind.”

Be this as it may, their feelings are soothingly hushed, and I hope that the day is not distant when the County, hitherto so generous, may be able, still further, to add to the efficiency of this Hospital, by the erection of a Chapel upon the grounds, of greater size than the present one, and more in accordance with the general structure of the Asylum, and with the taste and feelings of the present day.

A very large amount of liberty has, for curative purposes, been extended to the Patients during the past year, and it is therefore pleasing to state that no escape has occurred. A Criminal Patient, whose escape was referred to in the Report of last year, was brought back to the Asylum; he has since recovered, and was discharged with the sanction and authority of the Secretary of State.

Patients have been occasionally brought to the Asylum during the past year in manacles of various kinds, and one bound with cords, but such cases are becoming every year more and more rare, and in most of the instances in which restraint was resorted to, the Patients were so frantic and desperate that it would have been exceedingly difficult to have dispensed with some mechanical contrivance while the unfortunate Lunatic was travelling in the railway or an open cart. In every instance, the manacles were removed prior to the admission of the Patient within the precincts of the Wards, and it is gratifying to record, that of the one thousand two hundred and seven Patients who have been received and treated since the opening of the Asylum, not one has been manacled for a passing moment, and no injury has ever arisen to Patient or Attendant, which might have been avoided by the application of restraints. The same fact might probably be written of any Asylum which came into operation cotemporaneously with the Derbyshire Asylum,—but, having been familiar with Asylum life for nearly thirty years, remembering

“ Noise, other than the sound of dance and song,
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage,”

which characterised an earlier period ; remembering the opposition which this modern system received, the fact is full of interest, and fills me with grateful reverence for the men, Hill, Charlesworth, and Conolly, who abolished manacles and restraints, and who, acting on the Christian principle that love is power, converted the Asylums of England from gloomy prisons into well-regulated Hospitals for the treatment of the Insane.

In concluding this brief report, I desire to record the efficient aid which I have received from the Officers and Servants of the Institution, and to express my heartfelt thanks to the Committee of Visitors for the kindness and support which they have at all times afforded to me.

JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D.

January, 1862.

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 1ST JANUARY TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1861.

Examined.

(Signed)

JOHN RADFORD.
T. PEACH.

**JOHN LANGLEY,
CLERK & STEWARD.**

General Statement of Receipts and Payments between January 1st and December 31st, 1861.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1860	2374	4	8				Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st of December, 1860	1422	3	2			
Ditto in Steward's hands	61	7	7				Officers' Salaries to ditto	200	0	0			
				2435	12	3					1622	3	2
RECEIPTS.													
Sundry Sales	48	4	8				Provisions	3540	2	4			
Farm	100	0	0				House and other Expenses	1322	0	8			
Officers' Uniform	14	16	0				Clothing	456	6	5			
				163	0	8	Salaries and Wages	1872	5	7			
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County	6764	14	4				Extras for Sick	155	1	11			
County Treasurer	107	16	9								7345	16	11
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Counties	85	5	0								381	5	1
Private Patients	176	4	0										
Funerals	35	12	6										
				7169	12	7							
Accounts due to Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1861	1412	10	3				PAYMENTS.						
Officers' Salaries to Ditto	200	0	0										
				1612	10	3							
				£11,380	15	9							

Examined.

Signed { JOHN RADFORD.
T. PEACH.

JOHN LANGLEY,
Clerk and Steward.

ARTICLES MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

Between the 1st of January and the 31st of December, 1861.

The whole of the Clothing and Bedding is Made and Repaired in the Asylum.

SUPPLIES TO THE HOUSE FROM THE FARM AND GARDEN,

During the Year ending December 31, 1861.

Pork.	Milk.	Cabbages.	Carrots.	Onions.	Parsnips.	Potatoes.	Rhubarb.	Lettuce.	Beans.	Peas.
lbs.	gals.	Tons cwt. qr. lb.	Heads.	Bshls.	Pecks.					
5137	5835	6 10 3 11	3 3 0 14	1 2 0 4	1 6 2 19	9 0 1 25	1 6 3 26	1084	107	190

ORDINARY DIET.

BREAKFAST.		DINNER.		SUPPER.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.	Milk Porridge.
oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.	oz.	pt.
6	1	5	1	6	1
Sunday . . .					
Monday . . .					
Tuesday . . .					
Wednesday	6	1	5	1	1
Thursday . . .					
Friday . . .					
Saturday . . .					

Workers $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer extra at 11 o'clock a.m., and at 4 o'clock p.m.

*Laundry Women, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer, with Bread and Cheese, at 11 o'clock a.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer at 4 o'clock p.m.
Great additions are made to the above table; Epileptic, palsied, aged, and weakly Patients are allowed extra diet, such as Pounded Meat, Fish, Rice, Egg, Tapioca, Sago, and Arrowroot Puddings; with Porter, Brandy, or Wine, under the direction of the Superintendent-Physician.*

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

Average Weekly Cost

OF

MAINTENANCE, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND
CARE OF PATIENTS,

During the Year ending December 31, 1861.

	£. s. d.
Provisions	0 4 6½
Clothing	0 0 7
Salaries and Wages	0 2 4¾
Necessaries, Fuel, Light, and Washing ...	0 0 11¾
Surgery and Dispensary	0 0 0½
Wine, Spirits, and Porter	0 0 1¾
Furniture and Bedding	0 0 4¾
Garden and Farm	0 0 2¼
Miscellaneous, viz.—Rates and Taxes, Periodicals, Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Carriage of Goods and Insurance	0 0 3¾
	<hr/>
	0 9 7
Less Receipts from Sales	0 0 1
	<hr/>
	0 9 6
	<hr/>

Average Daily Number of Patients, 299.

